

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 12544 011612Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00
PM-03 DODE-00 IO-06 ACDA-10 L-01 PRS-01 EB-04
TRSE-00 /058 W
-----031719 011800Z /50

R 011556Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0238
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12544

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV EAIR BQG FR UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET FLIGHT THROUGH BERLIN CORRIDOR:
A FRENCH CONNECTION?

REF: USBER 1988 DTG 291613Z JUL 77

1. WE ARE UNABLE TO COMMENT ON USBER'S SPECULATION IN
REFTEL THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN
THE SOVIET CORRIDOR FLIGHT AND THE FRENCH AIR FORCE
MIRAGE DEMONSTRATION FLIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION. THE
SPECULATION BRINGS TO MIND, HOWEVER, A PRESS
INQUIRY WE RECEIVED EARLIER IN THE MONTH ABOUT AN
ALLEGED FRANCO-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN
MILITARY MATTERS. ON JULY 7 A CORRESPONDENT FOR
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SPRINGER DOMESTIC PRESS SERVICE ASKED AN EMBOFF WHETHER
HE HAD ANY INFORMATION ON SUCH AN AGREEMENT AND LEFT
WITH HIM A COPY OF AN INTERNAL SPRINGER TELEX ON THE
SUBJECT.

2. ACCORDING TO THE SPRINGER MESSAGE FRENCH CHIEF OF
STAFF GENERAL MAIRIE MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE

SOVIET UNION IN JUNE AT THE INVITATION OF DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER MARSHAL OGARKOV. THE VISIT WAS SUPPOSED TO END ON JUNE 16, BUT MAIRIE IN FACT REMAINED IN THE SOVIET UNION THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE TIME OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO FRANCE AND ON JUNE 21 MET WITH DEFENSE MINISTER USTINOV. ON THAT DATE USTINOV AND MAIRIE SIGNED AN "AGREEMENT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND THE SOVIET ARMIES."

3. SPRINGER HAD ASKED ITS BONN CORRESPONDENT TO ATTEMPT TO GET THE TEXT OF THIS AGREEMENT OR TO FIND OUT WHETHER THE TEXT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED. THE TELEX SAID THAT SPRINGER ONLY KNEW THAT THE AGREEMENT PROVIDED FOR EXCHANGES OF VISITS OF HIGH MILITARY COMMANDERS AND OF DELEGATIONS FROM MILITARY ACADEMIES AND SCHOOLS. SPRINGER UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT "OTHER MEASURES, NOT SPECIFICALLY DEFINED" WERE AGREED, INCLUDING MUTUAL FLEET VISITS.

4. EMBOFF STATED THAT HE HAD HEARD NOTHING ABOUT SUCH AN AGREEMENT, AND THE JOURNALIST DID NOT PURSUE THE MATTER WITH US. WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANYTHING IN THE PRESS ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT IT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN NOTED IN PARIS OR MOSCOW.

5. WE DRAW NO CONCLUSION FROM THIS BUT SIMPLY FEED IT INTO THE EQUATION BECAUSE OF ITS POSSIBLE
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RELEVANCE TO THE QUESTION USBER HAS RAISED.
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Message Attributes

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